Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8992

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAIR. IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - TIA SPLIT CHARTERS

REF: (A) STATE 7768; (B) ROME 0279; (C) ROME 16210

- 1. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE, GOI PERMITS ONLY SINGLE
 AFFINITY AND INCLUSIVE TOUR CHARTERS. SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS ARE
 NOT RPT AUTHORIZED UNDER PRESENT CIVILAVIA REGULATIONS. AS INDICATED
 REFTEL (C), EMBASSY IS SEEKING CHANGE IN ITALIAN CHARTER POLICY
 WHICH WOULD PERMIT SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS AT LEAST THROUGH 1975
 SEASON. EMBASSY HAS ACCORDINGLY APPROACHED MINISTRIES TRANSPORT
 (INCLUDING MINISTER MARTINELLI -- SEE REFTEL B) AND TOURISM AND WILL
 BE SHORTLY MAKING FORMAL APPROACH TO MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA).
- 2. EMBASSY HAS FULLY COORDINATED WITH BOTH SCHEDULED AND NONSCHEDULED CARRIERS AS WELL AS ITALIAN CHAPTER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF TRAVEL AGENTS (ASTA).
- 3. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO RPT NO INDICATION TO DATE THAT CIVILAVIA WILLING CHANGE CURRENT POLICY. CIVILAVIA DIRECTOR GENERAL MOCI AND DIRECTOR AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES SITAJOLO ARE BOTH ALITALIA ORIENTED AND FULLY REFLECT ALITALIA'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. DR. LIOI (CHIEF, FOREIGN AIR TRANSPORT AFFAIRS AND ONE LEVEL BELOW SITAJOLO) SUPPORTS SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS, BUT LIOI'S STAFF FAITHFULLY FOLLOWS ALITALIA LINE. CIVILAVIA HAS IN FACT REJECTED TIA'S APPLICATION FOR 25 SPLIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFFINITY CHARTERS DURING 1975 ON GROUNDS THEY NOT RPT NOT PERMITTED

UNDER CURRENT REGULATIONS. OVERSEAS NATIONAL AIRLINES (ONA) HAS ALSO FILED APPLICATIONS FOR SERIES OF SPLIE AFFINITY CHARTERS, BUT THESE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACTED UPON BY CIVILAVIA.

- 4. AS INDICATED REFTEL (B), MINISTER TRANSPORT MARTINELLI APPARENTLY RECOGNIZES ADVERS IMPACT PRESENT CHARTER POLICY ON TOURSIM AND ITALIAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND HE MAY, IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S INITIATIVE, TAKE ACTION WHICH WOULD RESULT IN CIVILAVIA (UNWILLINGLY) ISSUING NEW REGULATIONS PERMITTING SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS WITH MINISTER MARTINELLI AND WILL DELIVER NOTE TO MFA.
- 5. APPROVAL TIA AND ONA APPLICATIONS FOR SPLIT AFFINIT CHARTERS THUS REQUIRES SHIFT IN PRESENT GOI CHARTER POLICY. EMBASSY MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO SECURE SUCH POLICY SHIFT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WILL INFORM WASHINGTON AGENCIES, CARRIERS AND ASTA AS SOON AS GOI ATTITUDE TOWARDS SPLIT AFFINITY CHARTERS CHANGES.

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